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REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 63-74 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for allegedly being obvious over Dolan in view of Schaedel or Honda or Covino, further in view of Lowenheim. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 63 has been amended to recite that a gel layer is formed on the metallic substrate, as set forth, e.g., at p. [0062] of the specification as filed.

Dolan does not discuss gel formation, so it is believed that this obviousness rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 63-73 were rejected on the ground of obviousness-type double patenting over U.S. Patent No. 6,875,334 in view of Kinase. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants reiterate that NH_2OH is not an alcohol: it is an inorganic compound, whereas an alcohol is an organic compound (i.e., it contains a carbon atom). Thus, the obviousness-type double patenting rejection should be withdrawn.

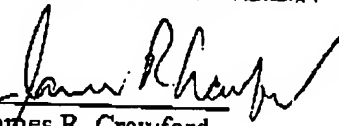
Furthermore, the claims, as amended to include formation of a gel layer, are believed to render the obviousness-type double patenting rejection moot.

In view of the foregoing, all rejections are believed to be overcome, so allowance is respectfully requested.

Any necessary fees may be charged to deposit account no. 50-0624.

Respectfully submitted

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